

Development of Historical and Religious Places in Haryana

2054. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BENDA CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Haryana has sought financial assistance from the Union Government for development of historical and religious places in State;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last two years and the current year so far;

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the purpose during the above period; and

(d) the progress made by the State Government to develop the above places?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) The Department of Tourism has sanctioned Rs.9.36 lakhs to Government of Haryana for illumination of Suraj Kund monument and Kurukshetra Festival during 1995-96. During 1996-97 refurbishment of Ballabhgarh Fort has been identified for central financial assistance at an estimated cost of Rs.43.81 lakhs.

Private STD/ISD/PCO in Varanasi

2055. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private STD, ISD and PCO booths in Varanasi;

(b) the number of applicants in the waiting list for allotment of booths as on November, 1996; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be allotted the above booths?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of private STD, ISD, PCO booths provided in Varanasi was 608 as on 30.11.96.

(b) The number of applicants in the waiting list was 863 as on 30.11.96.

(c) The applications in the waiting list will be cleared by December, 1997.

[English]

Helicopter Service in the North-Eastern State

2056. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not sanctioning helicopter service for Sikkim with 75% Central subsidy as done in the North-Eastern State;

(b) whether the Ministry has sanctioned requisite fund for construction of an air-strip in Sikkim; and

(c) if so, what is the total amount set apart for the project?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Subsidy for Helicopter services has been sanctioned only for Arunachal Pradesh which has very poor road connections.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Cracks in Khajuraho Temples

2057. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cracks have developed in Khajuraho temples due to operation of air service from the airport situated near Khajuraho as a result of which the existence of these temples is in danger;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation from the department of Archaeological Survey of India in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action for the repair of these cracks developed in Khajuraho temples and to ensure that such cracks may not develop in future; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India has not reported development of any cracks in Khajuraho Temples due to operation of air services. However, the Archaeological Survey of India have intimated that air services over these temples result in vibrations which could be dangerous and requested that flights should not be made over these temples.

(d) and (e) Airports Authority of India regulations lay down the procedure to be followed by the flight crew to avoid any damage to the temples.

International Telecommunications Market

2058. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) propose the opening up of long distance and international telecommunications market in a phased manner to multilateral trade organisations;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of present investment policy for allowing foreign equity in domestic telecom firms; and

(d) whether the Government propose to improve its offer on providing market access made to the WTO policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Sir, India in its schedule on basic telecommunications services submitted to WTO have stated that the subject of opening up of National long distance service beyond the service area to competition will be reviewed in the year 1999. The subject of opening of International Service will be reviewed in the year 2004.

(c) The foreign equity permitted for services committed in WTO in India's schedule is upto 25%. However in actual practice 49% foreign equity is being permitted in Basic and Cellular Telephone Services.

(d) There is no proposal at present for increasing the foreign equity for the services committed in India's schedule.

New Rangiya Division under NF Railway

2059. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued the necessary notification determining the territorial jurisdiction of the new Rangiya Division under Northeast Frontier Railways for which the foundation stone was laid in February, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The detailed territorial jurisdiction of Rangiya Division has not yet been finalised.

Electrification Programme

2060. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to electrify all Rail lines by 2000;

(b) if so, the details of rail lines which have been electrified during the current financial year and target for next financial year, State-wise; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Electrification projects are capital intensive and as such only those broad gauge routes over which the traffic density is high and the return on investment is not less than the minimum prescribed are considered for electrification.

(b) During current financial year 1996-97 following sections have been electrified/are expected to be electrified:

Sections	RKM	States
1. Tori-Patratu-Chainpur	101	Bihar
2. Mandigobindgarh-Ludhiana	46	Punjab
3. Walayar-Shoranur	72	Kerala
4. Bhimadolu-Nidadavolu-Rajhamundry	179	Andhra Pradesh
Samalkot-Anakapallie		
5. Karkend-Jamadoba	8	Bihar
6. Bondamunda -Barsuan/Kiriburu	105	Bihar/Orissa
7. Jamtara-Jhajha-Dadpur	123	Bihar

Following sections are targetted for completion during the next financial year 1997-98:

Sections	RKM	States
1. Chainpur-Gumia	31	Bihar
2. Ambala-Saharanpur	89	Haryana, Uttar Pradesh
3. Bondamunda-Lodhma	136	Bihar/Orissa
4. Shoranur-Mulagunu-athukavu	20	Kerala
5. Jhajha-Mokama	105	Bihar
6. Chandil-Muri-Barkakana	119	Bihar/West Bengal

(c) The total expenditure during the current financial year and the next financial year is estimated to be Rs.650 crores.

US Pressure to Open Telecom Sector

2061. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items captioned 'Open up telecom sector or face special 301: US' appearing in Hindustan Times dated October 15, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the report regarding US pressure on India to open telecom sector;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;